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(*c*) the other independent laboratories in which this was tested and the results thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Tetanus antitoxin and Cl. Welchu (perfringens) antitoxin.

(*b*) The toxoid passed the prescribed tests and proved to be antigenic.

(*c*) The first batch of the product manufactured at the King Institute, Guindy, was also tested at the Haffkins Institute, Bombay. The product was found to have passed both the toxicity and antigenicity tests.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that the product prepared at the King Institute is not favourably looked upon by the medical practitioners in our State? They still go in for foreign products.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : That is probably due to the individual fashion-mindedness of the particular doctor. (Laughter.)

Anti-scorpion serum

* 142 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the efficacy of the anti-scorpion serum produced in the King Institute, Guindy, has been tested and, if so, the results thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Anti-scorpion serum is not produced in the King Institute, Guindy. The question of testing its efficacy in the Institute does not, therefore, arise.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not a fact that the preparation of this serum found a prominent place in the paper that was placed on the table of the House? It is only on that basis that I put this question.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : True. But it is now being got from England, the Institute of Preventive Medicine in London. Even from there it is not now available.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I request the Hon. Minister to look up the report . . . ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Supplementary questions should be put in the form of questions. I am giving this for the information of the whole House. Asking for action is not a supplementary question. The hon. Member should put it in the form of a question.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Has the Hon. Minister perused the annual report submitted by the Director of Medical Services?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The Hon. Minister has not perused it, Sir. (Laughter.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not the duty of the Hon. Minister to peruse the report?

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have passed on to the next question.

Control of malaria

* 143 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether spraying operation has been carried on in the control of malaria in the State; and

(*b*) if so, in what places and the result thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The entire State has been covered by D.D.T. spraying since 1959–60. The progress of malaria control has been satisfactory and there has been a decline in malaria cases.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : How did the Government come to the conclusion that it is on the decline?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The percentage of malaria cases in 1957–58 was 7.7, in 1958–59 it was 2.4 and in 1959–60 it was 0.77. I think that is sufficient indication that the thing is coming down.

SRI S. NATARAJAN : Has there been an increase in filaria cases during this period?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No. We cannot say so. Probably the hon. Member has in mind what happened in Kumbakonam. It was a rare feature, and it was controlled. We cannot say generally that because we control malaria there is filaria.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Does the Hon. Minister place much reliance on the statistics since most of the patients go to private practitioners and get themselves cured with anti-malarial synthetics? I think the statistics cannot be correct.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Even allowing a latitude for that, I think we have made sufficient progress.

2-C tax (tree tax)

* 144 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have enhanced the 2-C tax (Tree tax) and, if so, the reasons for such enhancement?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir.

The rates of tree tax have been enhanced in view of the prevailing high rates of the usufructs of the trees like tamarind, mango, jack, etc., the original rates fixed years back having no relation to current prices.